



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,642	02/12/2001	Takashi Sugitou	55587(1004)	8394

7590

03/29/2005

Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman
EDWARDS & ANGELL
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209

EXAMINER

POON, KING Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,642

Applicant(s)

SUGITOU ET AL.

Examiner

King Y. Poon

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/22/2004, 1/3/20.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The new title of the invention has been accepted

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beaudet (US 5,511,150).

Regarding claim 1: Beaudet teaches a multifunctional printing system (column 3, line 1) wherein image information captured through an image information pickup means (scanner, column 3, lines 10-15) can be printed as multiple sets of copies (column 1, lines 30-35) by a printing means (marking means, column 3, lines 20-25) and which is configured so that the printing operation can be stopped only at intervals from one set of copies to the next or every certain number of printouts, comprising: a computing means (control logics/programs of the copier, column 7, lines 9-12, column 10, lines 6) for calculating the time at which an interrupt can be made next (fig. 4I), based on the designated number of print sets (column 9, lines 7-8, column 10, lines 1-5, column 1, lines 30-35), the current state of printing (the copier disable or not, column 6, lines 60-65), the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible (column 10, line 3); and a

Art Unit: 2624

display means (fig. 4I) for displaying the permissible interrupt time calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 2: Beaudet teaches a multifunctional printing system (column 3, line 1) wherein image information captured through an image information pickup means (scanner, column 3, lines 10-15) can be printed as multiple sets of copies (column 1, lines 30-35) by a printing means (marking means, column 3, lines 20-25) and which is configured so that the printing operation can be stopped only at intervals from one set of copies to the next or every certain number of printouts and so that the printing operation needs to be stopped in order to allow an interrupt job (column 9, lines 9-20), comprising: a computing means (control logics/programs of the copier, column 7, lines 9-12, column 10, lines 6) for calculating the permissible termination time (e.g., fig. 4I, column 10, lines 1-5) which allows for an interrupt job, based on the designated number of print sets (column 9, lines 7-8, column 10, lines 1-5, column 1, lines 30-35), the current state of printing (the copier disable or not, column 6, lines 60-65), the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible (column 10, line 3); and a display means (fig. 4I) for displaying the permissible termination time calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 3: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means has the function of calculating the finish time (fig. 4F1, fig. 4F2) of the requested interrupt job instead of calculating the permissible interrupt time or permissible termination time, and the display means has the function of displaying the finish time of the interrupt job calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 4: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means has the function of calculating the finish time (fig. 4F1, fig. 4F2) of the requested interrupt job instead of calculating the permissible interrupt time or permissible termination time, and the display means has the function of displaying the finish time of the interrupt job calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 5: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means, instead of having the function of calculating the permissible interrupt time, the permissible termination time or the finish time of the interrupt job, has the function of calculating the time length corresponding to any of these (the interrupt time of e.g., 103, secs shown in fig. 4I is a time length), and the display means has the function of displaying the time length calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 6: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means, instead of having the function of calculating the permissible interrupt time, the permissible termination time or the finish time of the interrupt job, has the function of calculating the time length corresponding to any of these (the interrupt time of e.g., 103, secs shown in fig. 4I is a time length), and the display means has the function of displaying the time length calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 7: Beaudet teaches wherein the display means displays the time or time length in response to the operation of a dedicated key which allows for input of a display request (column 9, lines 4-10, fig. 4D, interrupt job is a dedicated key which allows the display of fig. 4I).

Regarding claim 8: Beaudet teaches wherein the display means displays the time or time length when the key for requesting an interrupt is operated (column 9, lines 4-10, fig. 4D, interrupt job is a dedicated key which allows the display of fig. 4I).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaudet et al. as applied to claims 1-6 above, and further in view of Brown et al (US 5,327,487).

Regarding claim 9: Beaudet does not teach a voice generating means for informing the time or the time length via voice is provided instead of the display means.

Brown, in the same area of transmitting message to a user in a copier environment teaches message can be conveyed to a user by display and voice message (column 3, lines 1-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet's message conveying method to include: a voice generating means for informing the time or the time length via voice is provided instead of the display means.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet by the teaching of Brown to have allowed blind person having the privilege of using Beaudet's copier machine.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 10/22/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to applicant's argument that Beaudet does not teach using the current state of printing to calculate the time at which an interrupt can be made.

In reply: the claim states "computing means for calculating the time at which an interrupt can be make next, based on..., the current state of printing, the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible."

Clearly, the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible determines whether the computing means calculates the time for interrupt or not. Therefore, "computing means for calculating the time at which an interrupt can be make next, based on..., the current state of printing," means the current state of printing that determines whether the computing means calculates the time for interrupt or not.

Column 6, lines 24-50, teaches the printing system has two state of printing; 1) CLMJ mode where the printing system is used to print printing job; during which, copy job is not allowed to be printed. If a user wants to make a copy, the copier will display copier disable (column 6, lines 60-67). In this state, the computing means does not

Art Unit: 2624

calculate the time for interrupt or not because there are no interrupt printing. When the printing system is not currently in CLMJ printing mode (state); coping job by users are allowed (no to 210, fig. 3A); and interrupt printing is possible (fig. 4I, column 9, lines 1-20); and the time at which an interrupt can be made next can be calculated (fig. 4I).

Moreover, the current state of printing, according to the specification of the present invention, means many different things. For example, the interrupt state, the error state and the like (column page 8, line 13, specification of the present invention). The examiner points out just one example of how the current printing state is being interpreted. Other state of printing include, for example (in Beaudet), the printing system is printing job number 1234; fig. 4I; the printing system is printing set 124 out of 200 set; the printing system is printing a print job instead of a copy job; etc.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

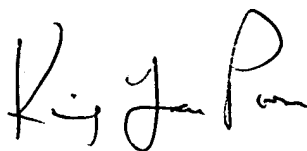
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2624

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (571) 272-7440.

3/25/05

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'King Y. Poon', written in a cursive style.

**KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**